

13281 U.S. PTO
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Organic light emitting diode containing a novel Ir complex as a phosphorescent emitter

Field of the Invention:

The present invention relates to an organic light emitting diode (OLED),
5 particularly an OLED containing an Ir complex as a phosphorescent emitter.

Background of the Invention:

Electroluminescent phosphorescent materials containing a heavy metal complex, such as Pt, Os and Ir complexes, have gained a lot of attention in the
10 application as an emitter of an OLED due to their highly efficient luminescent property. Among these complexes the Ir complex is the most efficient. The Ir complex usually has a regular octahedron structure at a positive trivalent oxidation state, and its luminescent property mainly comes from a metal-to-ligand charge transfer triplet state-³MLCT or a ligand-based triplet
15 state-³(π - π^*) state. A highly efficient electroluminescent phosphorescent emission is caused by the electron configurations of these heavy metal complexes having a strong spin-orbit coupling.

US Patent publication No. 2002/0034656A1 discloses an organometallic complex as an electroluminescent phosphorescent material including an
20 octahedron complex, L₂MX, where L and X are distinctive bidentate ligands, and M is Ir or Pt. Among the ligands (L) shown in Fig. 49 thereof, vinylpyridine is one of them. However, this published patent application does not propose the use of an Ir complex with vinylpyridine (L) as a ligand as an electroluminescent phosphorescent material. Furthermore, this published patent application does
25 not actually synthesize the Ir complex having vinylpyridine as a ligand. The disclosure of this published US Patent application is incorporated herein by reference.

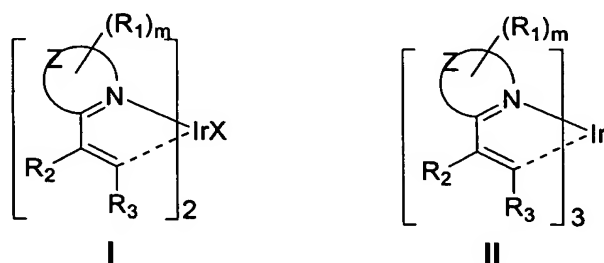
Summary of the Invention:

30 A primary objective of the present invention is to provide a phosphorescent Ir complex for use as a light emitting layer of an organic electroluminescent device. The organic electroluminescent device thus

fabricated shows high brightness, high external quantum efficiency, high current efficiency, and excellent CIE coordinates.

Another objective of the present invention is to provide an Ir complex for use as a light emitting layer of an electroluminescent device capable of emitting yellow to red light.

The phosphorescent Ir complex according to the present invention is mainly characterized in an octahedral hexaligand complex formed of three bidentate ligands having the following structures (I) or (II):



wherein X is an arbitrary monoanionic bidentate ligand, e.g. acetylacetonate, aminoacid, salicylaldehyde, iminoacetate, or other form;

Z is an arbitrary atomic moiety capable of forming a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic group such as pyridine, quinoline, isoquinoline, pyrazine, pyrimidine, pyrrole, pyrazole, imidazole, indole, thiazole, isothiazole, oxazole, isoxazole, benzothiazole, benzoxazole, phenanthroline, or other form;

R₁ is H, halogen, C1-C6 alkyl (e.g. methyl, ethyl, cyclohexyl), halogen-substituted C1-C6 alkyl (e.g. trifluoro methyl), C1-C6 alkoxy, phenyl C1-C6 alkyl (e.g. benzyl), amino, aryl, or a substituent of another arbitrary form;

m is 0 or a positive integer, the magnitude of which is determined by the size of the nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring;

R₂ and R₃ independently are H, halogen, C1-C6 alkyl (e.g. methyl, ethyl, cyclohexyl), halogen-substituted C1-C6 alkyl (e.g. trifluoro methyl), C1-C6 alkoxy, phenyl C1-C6 alkyl (e.g. benzyl), amino, aryl, hetrocyclic aryl, or a substituent of an arbitrary form.

The abovementioned aryl includes: phenyl, naphthyl, diphenyl, anthryl, pyrenyl, phenanthryl, or a polyaryl substituent of other form; the abovementioned hetrocyclic aryl includes: benzofurane, thiophene, or a hetrocyclic aryl of other form.

Brief Description of the Drawings:

Fig. 1 shows a schematic diagram of a multi-layered OLED of the present invention;

5 Fig. 2 shows the x-ray structure and the molecular formula of an Ir complex synthesized in Example 12 according to the present invention;

Fig. 3 shows the UV absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the Ir complex of Fig. 2 dissolved in dichloromethane;

10 Fig. 4 shows the x-ray structure and the molecular formula of an Ir complex synthesized in Example 13 according to the present invention;

Fig. 5 shows the UV absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the Ir complex of Fig. 4 dissolved in dichloromethane;

Fig. 6 shows the UV absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the Ir complex synthesized in Example 14 and dissolved in dichloromethane;

15 Fig. 7 shows the UV absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the Ir complex synthesized in Example 15 and dissolved in dichloromethane;

Fig. 8 shows the UV absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the Ir complex synthesized in Example 16 and dissolved in dichloromethane;

20 Fig. 9 shows the UV absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the Ir complex synthesized in Example 17 and dissolved in dichloromethane;

Fig. 10 shows the UV absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the Ir complex synthesized in Example 18 and dissolved in dichloromethane.

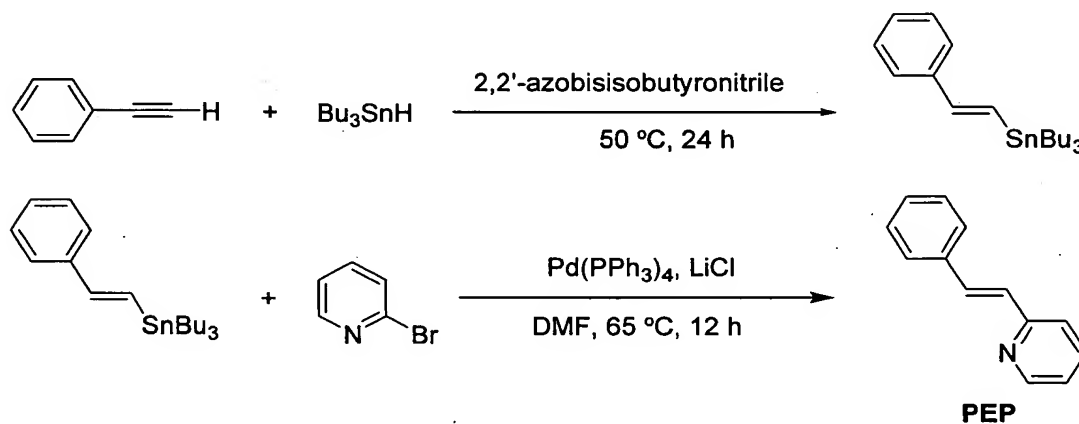
Detailed Description of the Invention:

25 In the following text, the synthesis and spectrum data of the phosphorescent Ir complexes according to the present invention are described in detail, as well as the application of this type of complexes as a phosphorescent material of an organic light-emitting diode (OLED). The structure of an OLED is a two layered, three layered, or multiple layered structure. Fig. 1 is a
30 schematic diagram of a multiple layered OLED device, wherein the actual thickness of each layer is independent of the dimension depicted in the drawing. The structure of the multiple layered OLED device sequentially comprises a

substrate (100), an anode (+), a hole injection modification layer (10), a hole transporting layer (20), an electron-blocking layer (not shown in the drawing), a light emitting layer (30), a hole-blocking layer (40), an electron transporting layer (50), and a cathode (-). Said electron-blocking layer, hole injection modification layer (10), and hole-blocking layer (40), depending on the requirements of said device, may or may not be included in the structure thereof, wherein the layers between the positive electrode and the negative electrode constitute an electroluminescent medium (400) of said device. Said light emitting layer (30) is formed by doping a phosphorescence material as a dopant in a host compound.

Preferred Embodiments:

Example 1. Synthesis of 2-[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]pyridine) (PEP): The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:

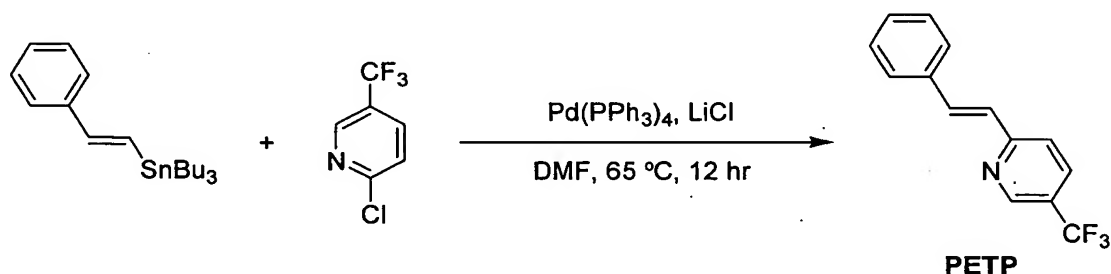


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Step (1): The synthesis was carried out according to the methods described in (a) Labadie, J. W.; Tueting, D.; Stille, J. K. *J. Org. Chem.* **1983**, *48*, 4634 and (b) Lappert, M. F.; Jones, K. *J. Organomet. Chem.* **1965**, *3*, 295. A mixture of tributyltin hydride (5.82 g, 20.0 mmole), phenylacetylene (1.95g, 19.0 mmole), and 2,2'-azobis(isobutyronitrile) (0.14g, 0.085 mmole) was slowly heated to 50°C, followed by stirring for 24 hours. Next, the mixture was cooled to room temperature and filtered by a Celite pad to remove the white precipitate. The filtrate was distilled to obtain 6.50 g of tributyl[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]stannane. Yield: 84%.

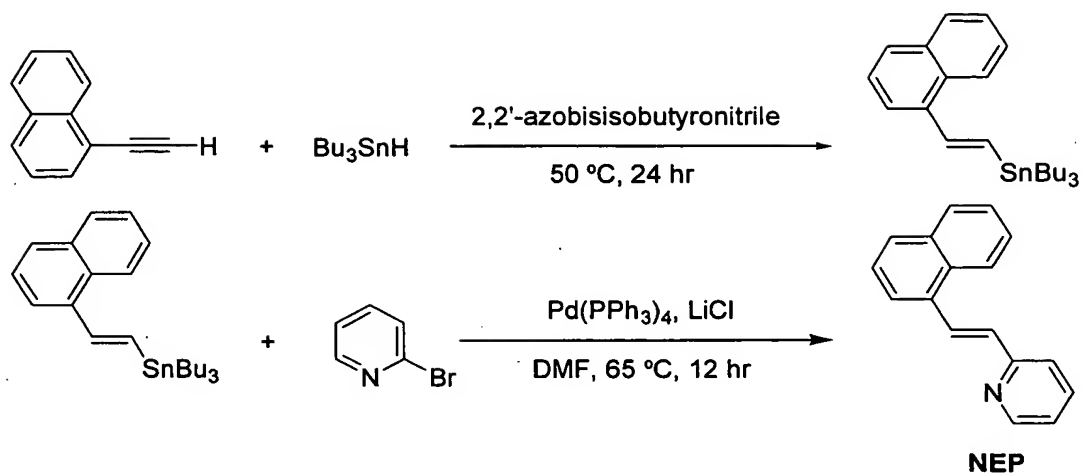
Step (2): The synthesis method described in Parrain, J. L.; Duchene, A.; Qunitard, J. P. *J. Chem. Soc. Perkin Trans. 1* **1990**, *1*, 187 was used with modifications. To a mixed solution of Pd(PPh₃)₄ (0.05 mmole), lithium chloride (LiCl) (2.00 mmole) and 10 ml of DMF, 1.00 mmole of 2-bromopyridine and 1.2 mmole of tributyl[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]stannane were added. The mixture was reacted at 65°C for 12 hours. Next, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature, 10 ml of a saturated potassium fluoride solution was added, and agitated at room temperature for 30 minutes. Next, using 50 ml of ether as an eluent, the mixture was filtered by Celite and silica gel. The organic layer was collected, washed with water, dried with magnesium sulfate, and concentrated. The concentrated solution was purified by passing through a silica gel column using ethyl acetate and n-hexane as an eluent, thereby obtaining said title compound. Yield: 75%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.13-7.21 (m, 2 H), 7.26-7.30 (m, 1 H), 7.33-7.41 (m, 3 H), 7.56-7.69 (m, 4 H), 8.58 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1 H).

Example 2. Synthesis of 2-[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)pyridine (PETP): The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:



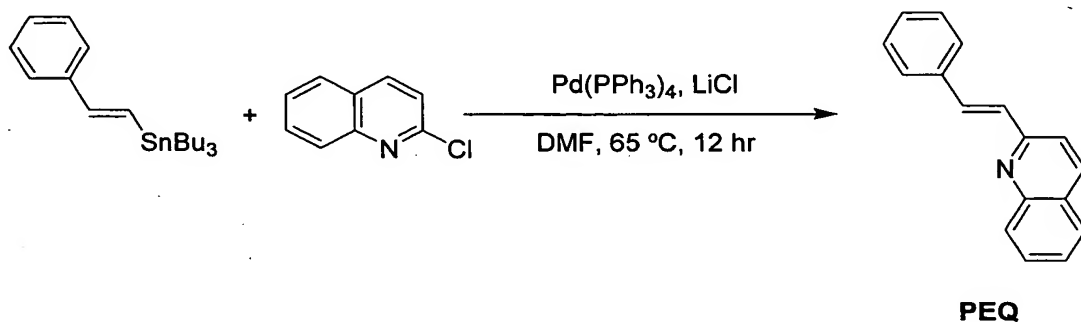
The synthesis steps in Example 1 were followed. Yield: 72%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.17 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.32 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.58 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.85 (dd, *J* = 2.0 Hz, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 1 H), 8.82 (s, 1 H).

Example 3. Synthesis of 2-[(*E*)-2-naphthyl-1-ethenyl]pyridine (NEP): The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:



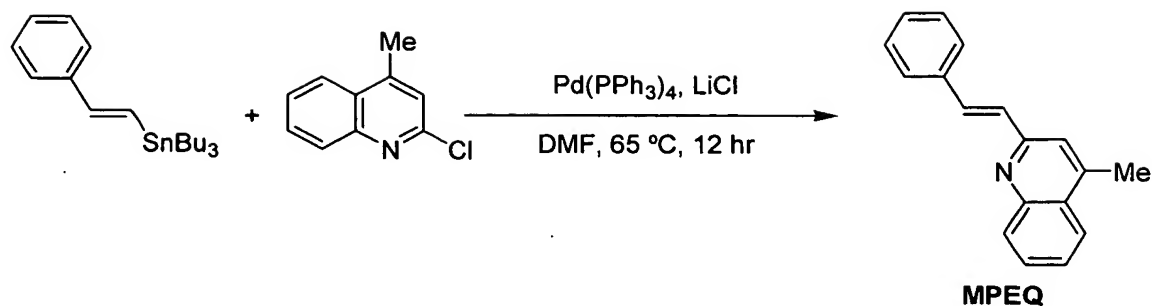
The synthesis steps in Example 1 were followed. Yield: 72%. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.15-7.19 (m, 2 H), 7.42-7.55 (m, 4 H), 7.66-7.71 (m, 1 H), 7.82-7.87 (m, 3 H), 8.31 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 1 H), 8.47 (d, $J = 15.6$ Hz, 1 H), 8.64 (d, $J = 4.4$ Hz, 1 H).

Example 4. Synthesis of 2-[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]quinoline (**PEQ**): The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:



The synthesis steps in Example 1 method were followed. Yield: 73%. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.31-7.33 (m, 1 H), 7.37-7.41 (m, 3 H), 7.48 (td, $J = 8.0$ Hz, $J = 1.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.62-7.71 (m, 5 H), 7.76 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 8.06 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 8.11 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H).

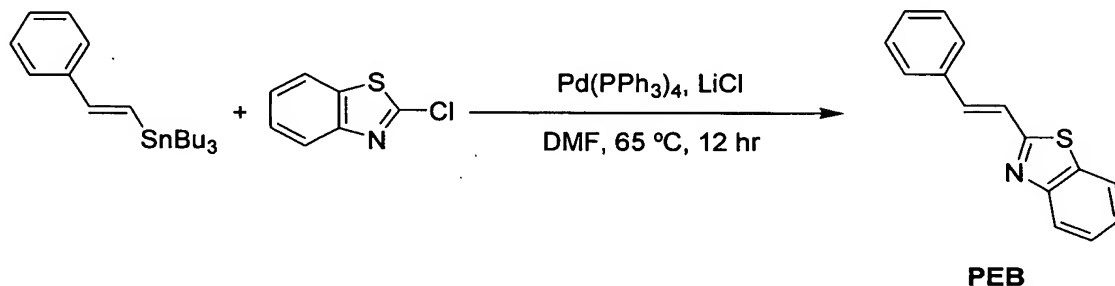
Example 5. Synthesis of 4-methyl-2-[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]quinoline (**MPEQ**): The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:



The synthesis steps in Example 1 were followed. Yield: 68%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 2.66 (s, 3 H), 7.28-7.33 (m, 2 H), 7.36-7.39 (m, 2 H), 7.46- 7.50 (m, 2 H), 7.61 (d, J = 6.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.65-7.69 (m, 2 H), 7.90 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.07 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H).

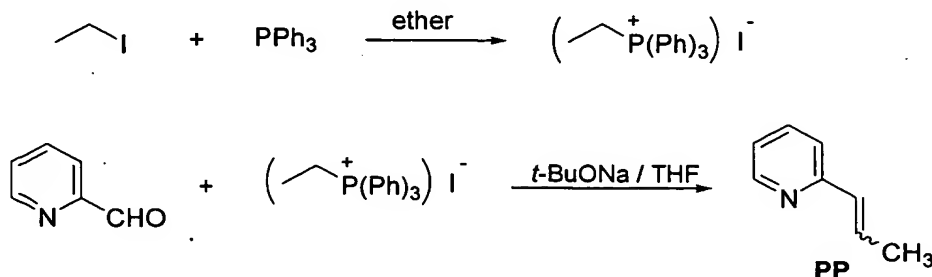
Example 6. Synthesis of 2-[(E)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]-1,3-benzothiazole (**PEB**):

The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:



The synthesis steps in Example 1 method were followed. Yield: 62%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.34-7.50 (m, 6 H), 7.53-7.58 (m, 2 H), 7.57 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.84 (d, J = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.98 (d, J = 8.4 Hz, 1 H).

Example 7. Synthesis of 2-[1-propenyl]pyridine (**PP**) The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:



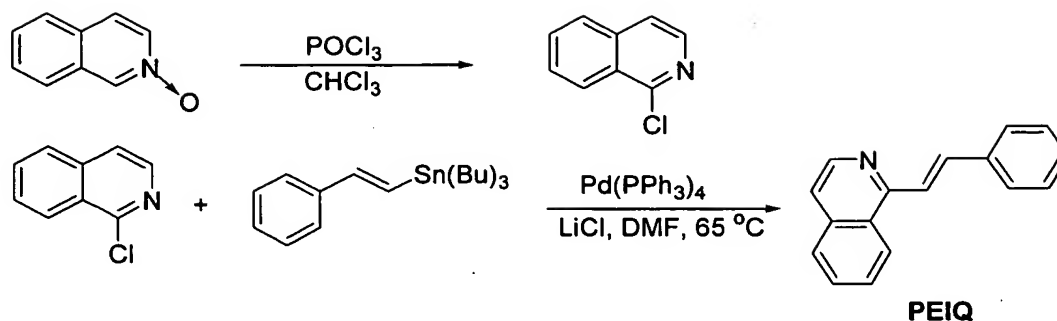
The synthesis was carried out according to the method described in

Poulter, C. D.; Muehlbacher, M.; Davis, D. R. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1989**, *111*, 3740. Step (1): In a nitrogen atmosphere, 25 ml of ether was added into a round bottom flask containing triphenylphosphine (PPh₃) (3.60g, 13.7 mmole). The mixture was agitated until a complete dissolution of PPh₃ was obtained. 5 Next, within one minute, ethyl iodide (1.95g, 12.5 mmole) was slowly added to the solution. The mixture was continuously agitated at room temperature for 48 hours. The resulting white suspension was collected by filtration, and washed with 10 ml of ethyl ether twice, followed by drying in vacuum, thereby obtaining triphenylethyl-phosphonium iodide with a yield of 75%.

10 Step (2): In a nitrogen atmosphere, 60 ml of freshly distilled THF and sodium *tert*-butoxide (3.45g, 35.8 mmole) were introduced into a round bottom flask containing triphenylethyl-phosphonium iodide (11.9g, 28.6 mmole). The mixture was agitated at room temperature for 1 hour. Next, to the mixture 2-pyridine carboxyaldehyde (2.56g, 23.9 mmole) was added, and continuously 15 agitated overnight. An ammonium chloride saturate aqueous solution was added to the mixture to terminate the reaction, followed by extraction with ethyl ether. The extract was washed with an ammonium chloride aqueous solution and water, dried with magnesium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuum. The residue was separated with a silica gel chromatography column using ethyl ether 20 and n-hexane as an eluent to obtain a PP trans-isomer with a yield of 28% and a PP cis-isomer with a yield of 35%. (*E*)-2-[1-propenyl]pyridine: ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 1.90 (d, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 3 H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1 H), 6.68-6.74 (m, 1 H), 7.03-7.07 (m, 1 H), 7.20 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.56 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, *J* = 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 8.49 (dd, *J* = 4.0 Hz, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 1 H).

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Example 8. Synthesis of 1-[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]isoquinoline (PEIQ): The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:

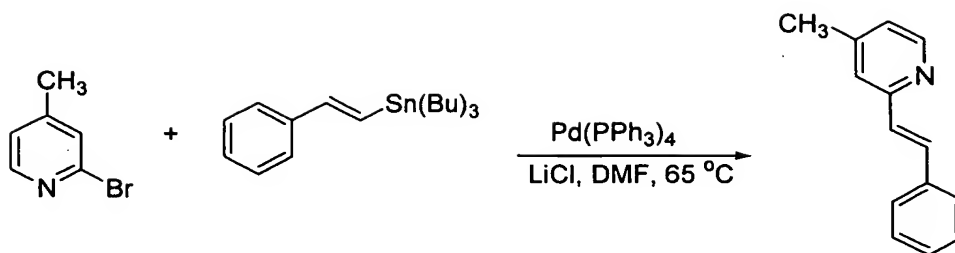


Step (1): The synthesis of 1-chloroisoquinoline was carried out according to the method described in Zhang, H.; Kwong, F. Y.; Tian, Y.; Chan, K. S. *J. Org. Chem.* **1998**, *63*, 6886. Isoquinoline *N*-oxide (14.5g, 0.10 mole) was dissolved in 50 ml of CHCl_3 . POCl_3 (phosphoryl chloride) (28 ml, 0.30 mole) was then added. The resulting mixture was refluxed for two hours and cooled to room temperature. The resulting orange solution was poured into an ice bath. Concentrated ammonia solution was then added until the solution became an alkaline solution. After the solution formed into two layers, the aqueous layer was extracted with 50 ml of dichloromethane twice. The organic layer of the extraction was removed, dried by sodium sulfate, and concentrated in vacuum to obtain a brown oily material. Finally, the residue was purified with a silica gel chromatography column using ethyl ether and *n*-hexane as an eluent to obtain 14.3 g of a colorless solid with a yield of 84%.

Step (2): The synthesis steps in Example 1 were followed to obtain the title product. Yield: 55%. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 7.32 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 1 H), 7.40 (t, $J = 7.2$ Hz, 2 H), 7.55 (t, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 1 H), 7.59-7.70(m, 4 H), 7.81 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 1 H), 7.98 (d, $J = 2.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.35 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1 H), 8.54 (d, $J = 5.2$ Hz, 1 H).

Example 9. Synthesis of 5-methyl-2-[(*E*)-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl]pyridine (**5-MPEP**):

The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:

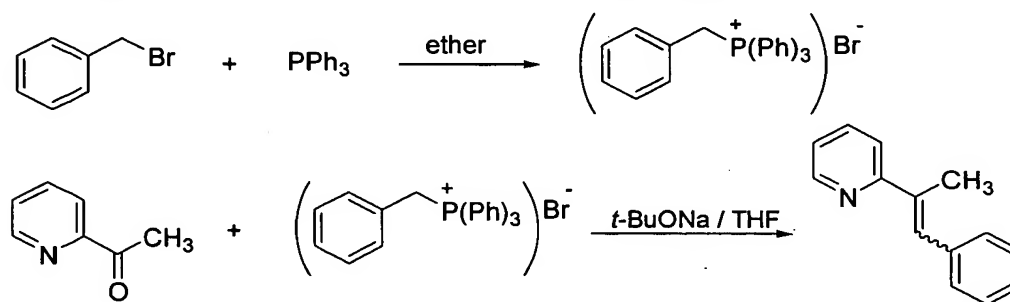


5-MPEP

The synthesis steps in Example 1 were followed. Yield: 58%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 2.33 (s, 3H), 6.95 (d, *J* = 5.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.12 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.19 (s, 1 H), 7.27 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1 H), 7.35 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.60 (d, *J* = 16.0 Hz, 1 H), 8.43 (d, *J* = 4.4 Hz, 1 H).

Example 10. Synthesis of 2-(1-methyl-2-phenyl-1-ethenyl)pyridine (**2-MPEP**):

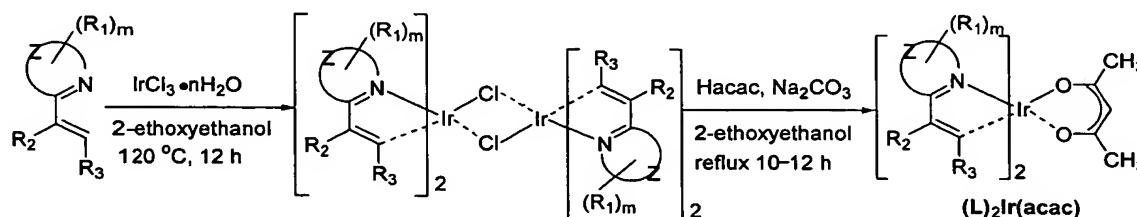
The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:



2-MPEP

The synthesis steps in Example 1 were followed. Yield: 71%. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 2.34 (s, 3 H), 7.16 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 1 H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1 H), 7.35-7.42 (m, 4 H), 7.45 (s, 1 H), 7.53 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1 H), 7.68 (td, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 1 H), 8.64 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 1 H).

Example 11. Synthesis of Ir complex (L)₂Ir(acac): The synthesis reaction is shown in the following:



2.2 mmoles of each of the compounds obtained from Examples 1~10 was dissolved in 10 ml of 2-ethoxyethanol. Next, 1 mmole of iridium trichloride hydrate and 3 ml of water were added. In a nitrogen atmosphere, the mixture was stirred at 120°C for 12 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the resulting precipitate was collected, washed with ethanol and acetone, and dried in vacuo to obtain a cyclometalated Ir(III)- μ -chloro-bridged dimer. Next, the dimer, 5 mmoles of acetylacetonate, and 10 mmoles of sodium carbonate were dissolved in 15 ml of 2-ethoxy ethanol. In a nitrogen atmosphere, the mixture was refluxed at 120°C for 12 hours. After being cooled to room temperature, 2-ethoxy ethanol was removed by distillation. The residue was dissolved in dichloromethane and filtered to remove sodium carbonate. The filtrate was concentrated in vacuo. The residue was purified with a silica gel chromatography column using dichloromethane and n-hexane as an eluent to obtain an Ir complex. Prior to the fabrication of a device, the Ir complex was further purified by sublimation at 200–220°C and 4×10^{-3} Pa.

Example 12. Synthesis of $(\text{PEP})_2\text{Ir}(\text{acac})$ (**I-1**) (x-ray structure and molecular formula are shown in Fig. 2)

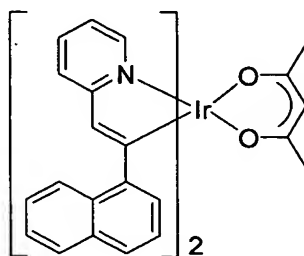
PEP obtained from Example 1 was used as a ligand (L). The steps in Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-1** with a yield of 72%. The ultraviolet absorption spectrum and the photoluminescence (PL) emission spectrum of the **I-1** complex dissolved in dichloromethane are shown in Fig. 3. The emission light is red and the maximum emission wavelength is 616 nm. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500 MHz): δ (ppm) 1.81 (s, 6 H), 5.12 (s, 1 H), 6.56 (td, $J = 1.5$ Hz, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H), 6.73 (s, 2 H), 6.91 (d, $J = 5.0$ Hz, 10 H), 7.09 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.29 (td, $J = 1.5$ Hz, $J = 7.5$ Hz, 2 H), 7.78 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H); HRMS (m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{27}\text{IrN}_2\text{O}_2$ 652.1702, found 652.1699.

Example 13. Synthesis of $(\text{PETP})_2\text{Ir}(\text{acac})$ (**I-2**) (x-ray structure and molecular formula are shown in Fig. 4)

PETP obtained from Example 2 was used as a ligand (L). The steps in Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-2** with a yield of 70%. The

ultraviolet absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the **I-2** complex dissolved in dichloromethane are shown in Fig. 5. The emission light is red and the maximum wavelength of the emission light is 610 nm. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 1.85 (s, 6 H), 5.17 (s, 1 H), 6.76 (s, 2 H), 6.81-6.84 (m, 4 H), 6.92-6.96 (m, 6 H), 7.14 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.45 (d, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.93 (s, 2 H); HRMS (m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{33}\text{H}_{25}\text{F}_6\text{IrN}_2\text{O}_2$ 788.1449, found 788.1451.

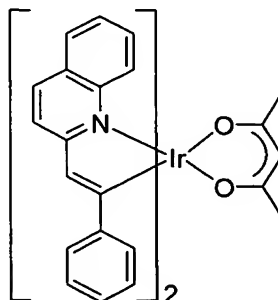
Example 14. Synthesis of $(\text{NEP})_2\text{Ir}(\text{acac})$ (**I-3**)



I-3

NEP obtained from Example 3 was used as a ligand (L). The steps of Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-3** with a yield of 61%. The ultraviolet absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the **I-3** complex dissolved in dichloromethane are shown in Fig. 6. The emission light is red and the maximum emission wavelength is 616 nm. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 1.88 (s, 6 H), 5.13 (s, 1 H), 6.01 (t, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 6.79 (s, 2 H), 6.86 (d, $J = 6.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.02-7.08 (m, 6 H), 7.34-7.44 (m, 8 H), 7.65 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H), 8.56 (d, $J = 6.0$ Hz, 2 H); HRMS (m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{39}\text{H}_{31}\text{IrN}_2\text{O}_2$ 752.2015, found 752.2018.

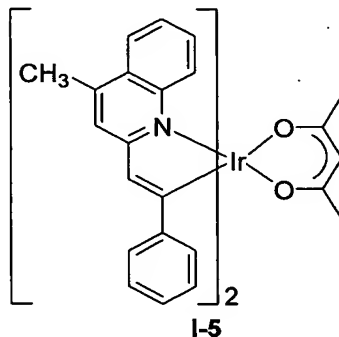
Example 15. Synthesis of $(\text{PEQ})_2\text{Ir}(\text{acac})$ (**I-4**)



I-4

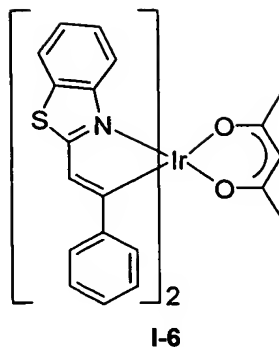
PEP obtained from Example 4 was used as a ligand (L). The steps of Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-4** with a yield of 60%. The ultraviolet absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the **I-4** complex dissolved in dichloromethane are shown in Fig. 7. The emission light is red and the maximum wavelength of the emission light is 638 nm. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): δ (ppm) 1.60 (s, 6 H), 4.60 (s, 1 H), 6.70-6.72 (m, 6 H), 7.02 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 4 H), 7.09-7.13 (m, 4 H), 7.43 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.49 (d, *J* = 9.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.54 (s, 2 H), 7.75 (dd, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 2.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H). HRMS (*m/z*) calcd for C₃₉H₃₁IrN₂O₂ 752.2015, found 752.2022.

Example 16. Synthesis of (MPEQ)₂Ir(acac) (**I-5**)



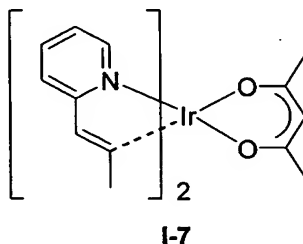
MPEQ obtained from Example 5 was used as a ligand (L). The steps of Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-5** with a yield of 59%. The ultraviolet absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the **I-5** complex dissolved in dichloromethane are shown in Fig. 8. The emission light is red and the maximum wavelength of the emission light is 634 nm. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): (ppm) 1.58 (s, 6 H), 1.66 (s, 6 H), 4.57 (s, 1 H), 6.71 (dd, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 6.0 Hz, 6 H), 7.02-7.12 (m, 6 H), 7.15 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 2 H), 7.35 (s, 2 H), 7.49 (s, 2 H), 7.59 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H), 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 2 H). HRMS (*m/z*) calcd for C₄₁H₃₅IrN₂O₂ 780.2328, found 780.2323.

Example 17. Synthesis of (PEB)₂Ir(acac) (**I-6**)



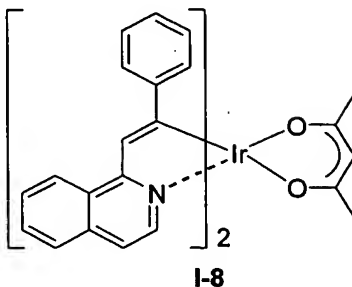
PEB obtained from Example 6 was used as a ligand (L). The steps of Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-6** with a yield of 81%. The ultraviolet absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the **I-6** complex dissolved in dichloromethane are shown in Fig. 9. The emission light is red and the maximum emission wavelength is 636 nm. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): (ppm) 1.77 (s, 6 H), 4.96 (s, 1 H), 6.74-6.78 (m, 6 H), 6.87 (dd, $J = 2.8$ Hz, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 4 H), 7.04-7.08 (m, 6 H), 7.37 (dd, $J = 2.8$ Hz, $J = 8.4$ Hz, 2 H), 7.54 (dd, $J = 2.4$ Hz, $J = 7.6$ Hz, 2 H). HRMS (m/z) calcd for $\text{C}_{35}\text{H}_{27}\text{IrN}_2\text{O}_2\text{S}_2$ 764.1143, found 764.1151.

Example 18. Synthesis of $(\text{PP})_2\text{Ir}(\text{acac})$ (**I-7**)



PP obtained from Example 7 was used as a ligand (L). The steps of Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-7** with a yield of 20%. The ultraviolet absorption spectrum and the PL emission spectrum of the **I-7** complex dissolved in dichloromethane are shown in Fig. 10. The emission light is yellow and the maximum wavelength of the emission light is 542 nm. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 400 MHz): (ppm) 1.64 (s, 6 H), 1.79 (s, 6 H), 5.12 (s, 1 H), 6.45 (s, 2 H), 6.76 (td, $J = 6.8$ Hz, $J = 0.8$ Hz, 2 H), 7.12 (d, $J = 8.0$ Hz, 2 H), 7.41 (td, $J = 8.4$ Hz, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 2 H), 8.11 (d, $J = 5.6$ Hz, 2 H).

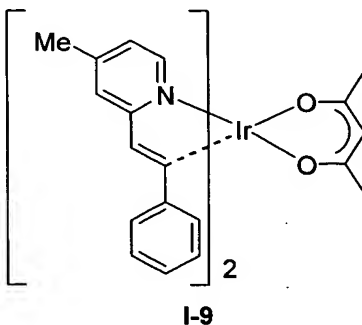
Example 19. Synthesis of (PEIQ)₂Ir(acac) (**I-8**)



PEIQ obtained from Example 8 was used as a ligand (L). The steps of Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-8** with a yield of 50%. The PL emission spectrum of the **I-8** complex dissolved in dichloromethane shows red light with an emission maximum at 664 nm. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz) (ppm): 1.81 (s, 6 H), 5.13 (s, 1 H), 6.82-6.89 (m, 6 H), 6.96-7.03 (m, 6 H), 7.48 (td, *J* = 6.8 Hz, *J* = 1.2 Hz, 2 H), 7.55 (td, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1.6 Hz, 2 H), 7.67 (t, *J* = 6.4 Hz, 6 H), 8.27(d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2 H).

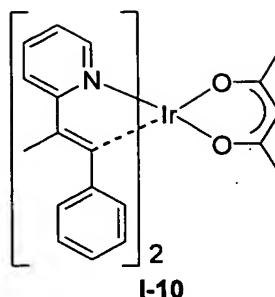
10

Example 20. Synthesis of (5-MPEP)₂Ir(acac) (**I-9**)



5-MPEP obtained from Example 9 was used as a ligand (L). The steps of Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-9** with a yield of 62%. The PL emission spectrum of the **I-9** complex dissolved in dichloromethane gives red light with the maximum emission wavelength at 616 nm. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): (ppm) 1.80 (s, 6 H), 2.33 (s, 6 H), 5.10 (s, 1 H), 6.40 (d, *J* = 6.0 Hz, 2 H), 6.67 (s, 2 H), 6.91-6.95 (m, 12 H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 5.6 Hz, 2 H).

20 Example 21. Synthesis of (2-MPEP)₂Ir(acac) (**I-10**)

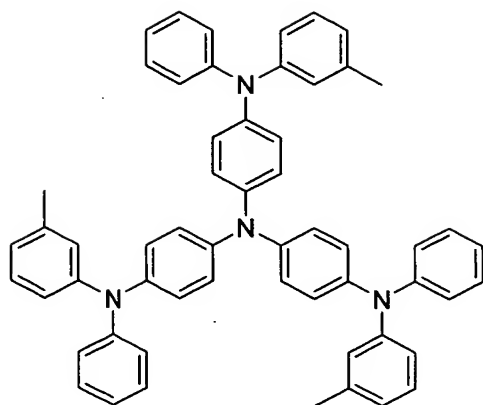


2-MPEP obtained from Example 10 was used as a ligand (L). The steps of Example 11 were used to prepare a complex **I-10** with a yield of 72%. The solution of the **I-10** complex dissolved in dichloromethane emits red light and the maximum emission wavelength is 612 nm. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃, 400 MHz): (ppm) 1.80 (s, 6 H), 1.82 (s, 6 H), 5.13 (s, 1 H), 6.53 (td, *J* = 7.2 Hz, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 2 H), 6.79-6.95 (m, 12 H), 7.24 (td, *J* = 7.6 Hz, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 2 H), 7.81 (dd, *J* = 5.2 Hz, *J* = 0.8 Hz, 2 H).

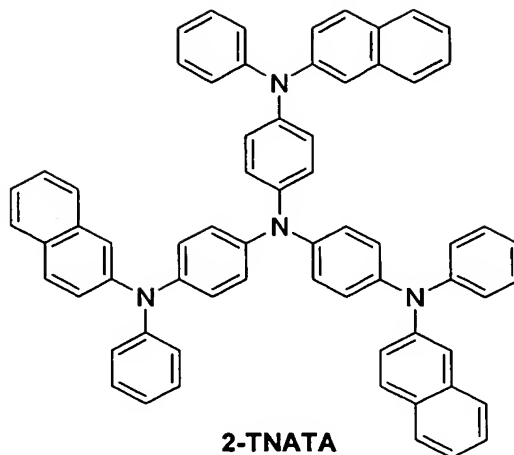
10 Example 22~Example 47 : fabrication of organic light emitting diode device

The phosphorescent Ir complexes of the present invention synthesized above were used to prepare OLED devices. The devices were all fabricated according to the following steps: preparing a glass substrate; sequentially forming an anode, a hole injection modification layer (optional), a hole transporting layer, a light emitting layer, a hole-blocking layer, an electron transporting layer, a hole injection layer (KF, potassium fluoride) (optional), and a cathode. The anode was made of electrically conductive ITO (Indium-Tin-Oxide) with a thickness of about 100 nm. The light emitting layer was formed by doping the phosphorescent Ir complex in the host material. Prior to performing a vapor deposition of the organic layers, the ITO glass was cleaned first by using a commercial detergent and an organic solvent, followed by an UV-ozone cleaner.

The material used as a hole injection modification layer in the device of the present invention was selected from *m*-MTDATA (4,4',4''-tris[*N*-(3-methylphenyl)-*N*-phenylamino]triphenylamine) and 2-TNATA (4,4',4''-tris[2-naphthylphenylamino]triphenylamine) as shown in the following structure group G1:



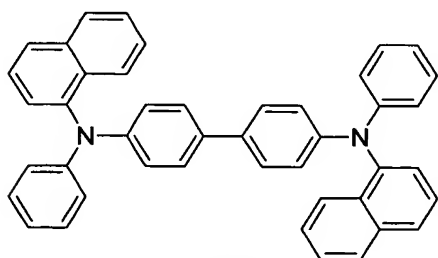
m-MTDATA



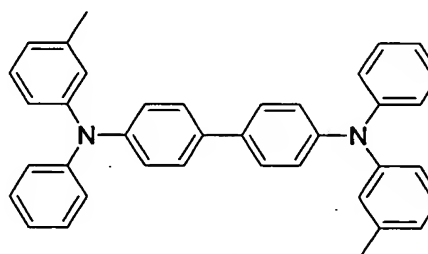
2-TNATA

Structure group G1

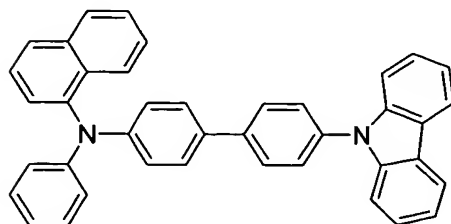
- The hole transporting material was an aniline compound selected from the following structure group G2 consisting of NPB
- 5 (4,4'-bis[1-naphthylphenylamino]biphenyl), TPD
- (4,4'-bis[*m*-tolylphenylamino]biphenyl), NCB
- (4-[*N*-carbazolyl]-4'-[*N*-phenylnaphthylamino]biphenyl), PPB
- (4,4'-bis[9-phenanthrylphenylamino]biphenyl), TCTA
- (4,4',4''-tri[*N*-carbazolyl]triphenylamine), MPMP
- 10 (bis{4-[*N,N*-diethylamino]-2-[methylphenyl]}-[4-methylphenyl]methane) and
- HMTDP (4,4'-bis{*N,N'*-[3-tolyl]amino}-3,3'-dimethylbiphenyl):



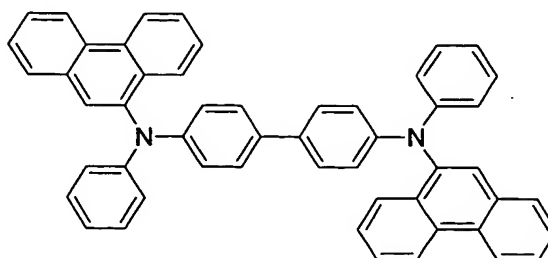
NPB



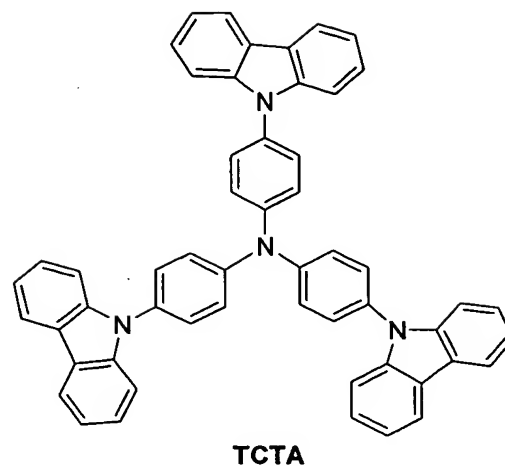
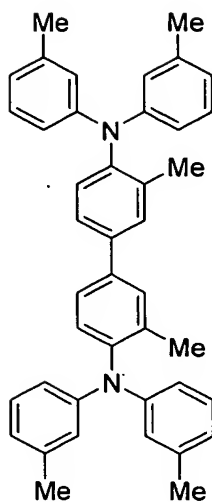
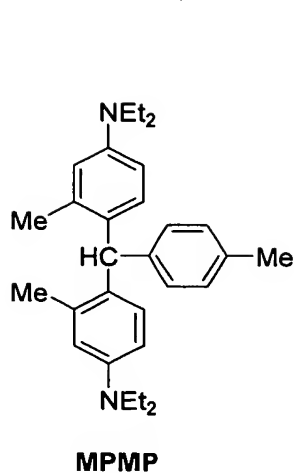
TPD



NCB

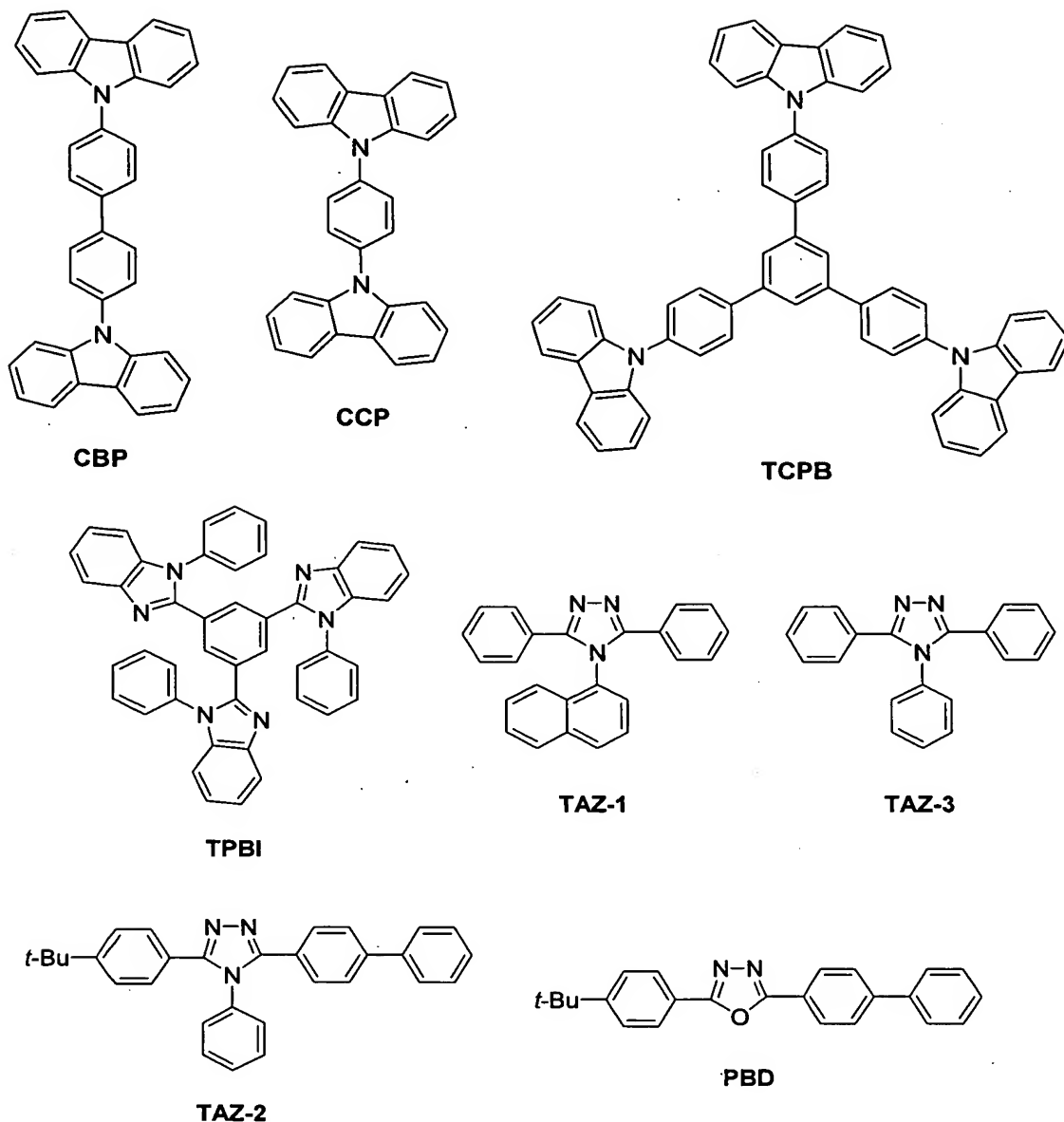


PPB



Structure group G2

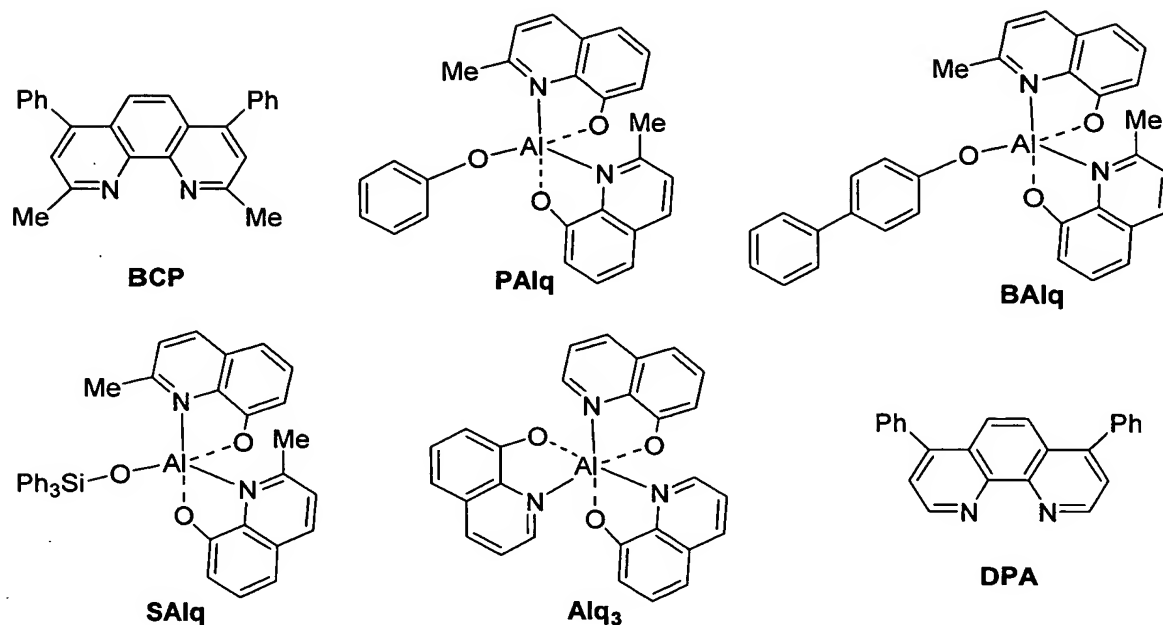
The host material was selected from TCTA in the structure group G2, or the compounds having a hole transporting capability such as CBP (4,4'-*N,N'*-dicarbazole-biphenyl), CCP (1,4-bis[carbazolyl]benzene), TCPB (1,3,5-tris[4-(*N*-carbazolyl)phenyl]benzene) of the following structure group G3, or the compounds having electron transporting capability such as TPBI (1,3,5-tris[*N*-phenylbenzimidazol-2-yl]benzene), TAZ-1 (3-phenyl-4-[1'-naphthyl]-5-phenyl-1,2,4-triazole), TAZ-2 (3-[4-biphenyl]-4-phenyl-5-*tert*-butylphenyl-1,2,4-triazole), TAZ-3 (3-phenyl-4-[1'-phenyl]-5-phenyl-1,2,4-triazole), PBD (2-[4-biphenyl]-5-[4-*tert*-butylphenyl]-1,3,4-oxadiazole) of the following structure group G3:



Structure group G3

The hole-blocking layer used was a material selected from TPBI in the structure group G3, or BCP (2,9-dimethyl-4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline), BAQ (aluminum[III]bis[2-methyl-8-quinolinato][4-phenylphenolate]), PAQ (aluminum[III]bis[2-methyl-8-quinolinato]-[4-phenolate]) and SAQ (aluminum[III]bis[2-methyl-8-quinolinato][triphenylsilanolate]) shown in the following structure group G4. The electron transporting layer was made from a material selected from TPBI, TAZ-1, TAZ-2, TAZ-3, or PBD in the structure group G3, or Alq₃ (tris[8-hydroxyquinolinato]aluminum) or DPA

(4,7-diphenyl-1,10-phenanthroline) in the following structure group G4:



Structure group G4

In the structure groups G2-G4, Ph is phenyl, Me is methyl, Et is ethyl, and
5 Bu is butyl.

During the vapor depositions of the organic materials, phosphorescent Ir complexes and metals in the fabrication of devices, the chamber pressure was kept smaller than about 5×10^{-6} torr. The deposition rate was about 1.5~2.5 Å/s for the organic materials, about 0.05~0.2 Å/s for the phosphorescent Ir
10 complexes, and about 0.5 Å/s for potassium fluoride. The layer thickness was about 10~15 nm for the hole injection modification layer, about 25~50 nm for the hole transporting layer, about 10~20 nm for the hole-blocking layer, about 10~50 nm for the electron transporting layer, and about 0.5 nm for the electron injection layer (potassium fluoride). The cathode was a Mg-Ag alloy wherein the
15 deposition rate was 5 Å/s for magnesium and 0.5 Å/s for silver, and the magnesium and silver were deposited by co-evaporation in a ratio of 10 to 1 with a layer thickness of 55 nm. Finally, silver was deposited as a protective layer with a layer thickness of about 100~150 nm. The key characteristics for all devices (Example 22~Example 47) are listed in Table 1 and the structures of the
20 devices are shown in the following:

Example 22: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-1: CBP (6.7 %, 30 nm)/TPBI (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 23: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-1: CBP (14.3 %, 30 nm)/TPBI (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

5 Example 24: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-1: CCP (5.7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 25: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-1: TPBI (8 %, 30 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

10 Example 26: ITO/NPB (25 nm)/I-2: CCP (2.7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 27: ITO/NPB (30 nm)/I-2: CCP (5 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 28: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-2: CCP (7.3 %, 30 nm)/BCP(10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

15 Example 29: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-2: CCP (9.7 %, 30 nm)/BCP(10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 30: ITO/2-TNATA(10 nm)/NPB (30 nm)/I-2: CCP (5 %, 30 nm)/BCP(10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

20 Example 31: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-4: CBP (5.7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 32: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-4: CBP (7.3 %, 30 nm)/TPBI (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 33; ITO/2-TNATA (10 nm)/NPB (40 nm)/I-4: CBP (5.7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

25 Example 34: ITO/2-TNATA (10 nm)/NPB (40 nm)/I-4: CBP (7.3 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 35: ITO/2-TNATA (10 nm)/NPB (40 nm)/I-4: CBP (10.3 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

30 Example 36: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-4: CCP (6 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 37: ITO/2-TNATA (10 nm)/NPB (40 nm)/I-4: CCP (6.7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 38: ITO/NPB (30 nm)/CBP (20 nm)/I-4: TPBI (6.7 %, 30 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 39: ITO/2-TNATA (10 nm)/NPB (40 nm)/I-4: TPBI (6.7 %, 30 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

5 Example 40: ITO/TCTA (30 nm)/I-4: CBP (6.7 %, 30 nm)/BAIq (20 nm)/Alq (10 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 41: ITO/TPD (50 nm)/I-5: CBP (5 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

10 Example 42: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-5: CBP (6.7 %, 30 nm)/TPBI (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 43: ITO/NPB (50 nm)/I-5: CBP (7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 44: ITO/2-TNATA(10 nm)/NPB (40 nm)/I-5: CBP (7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

15 Example 45: ITO/NPB (40 nm)/I-5: CCP (5 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Example 46: ITO/NPB (40 nm)/I-5: CCP (7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

20 Example 47: ITO/2-TNATA(10 nm)/NPB (40 nm)/I-5: CCP (4.7 %, 30 nm)/BCP (10 nm)/Alq (40 nm)/Mg:Ag=10:1

Table 1

Ex.	Turn-on voltage (V)	Max. external quantum efficiency (%) (voltage/volt)	Max. brightness (cd/m ²) (voltage/volt)	Max. efficiency (cd/A) (voltage/volt)	CIE coordinate (8 V) (x, y)	Max. PL wavelength (nm)
Ex. 22	3.0	2.21 (7.2)	11627 (11.6)	5.52 (7.2)	(0.55, 0.43)	592
Ex. 23	3.0	3.37 (8.0)	16617 (13.2)	8.44 (8.0)	(0.57, 0.43)	594
Ex. 24	3.2	3.27 (8.0)	17798 (12.6)	8.02 (8.0)	(0.56, 0.43)	596
Ex. 25	3.1	2.21 (6.8)	12744 (11.8)	4.95 (6.8)	(0.55, 0.40)	596
Ex. 26	4.0	7.35 (8.5)	32921 (14.5)	17.46 (8.5)	(0.58, 0.42)	598
Ex. 27	3.8	7.35 (7.0)	34502 (13.5)	16.59 (7.0)	(0.59, 0.40)	598
Ex. 28	3.8	5.23 (8.0)	22321 (13.5)	10.02 (8.0)	(0.61, 0.38)	604
Ex. 29	3.8	5.26 (8.0)	22038 (13.5)	9.89 (8.0)	(0.60, 0.37)	608
Ex. 30	4.0	5.50 (8.5)	27669 (14.0)	12.22 (8.5)	(0.59, 0.40)	600
Ex. 31	3.5	4.77 (8.0)	22866 (14.0)	6.14 (8.0)	(0.65, 0.33)	622
Ex. 32	3.1	4.27 (7.5)	20037 (14.5)	5.39 (7.5)	(0.66, 0.33)	624
Ex. 33	4.0	6.36 (10.0)	23744 (16.0)	8.32 (10.0)	(0.66, 0.34)	622
Ex. 34	3.8	6.58 (8.0)	21825 (14.5)	8.02 (8.0)	(0.66, 0.33)	626
Ex. 35	3.7	4.76 (8.5)	17111 (14.0)	5.56 (8.5)	(0.66, 0.33)	624
Ex. 36	3.3	3.45 (8.0)	18472 (13.5)	4.30 (8.0)	(0.66, 0.33)	624
Ex. 37	3.8	6.31 (9.0)	22478 (15.5)	7.87 (9.0)	(0.66, 0.33)	624
Ex. 38	3.6	6.10 (8.5)	17364 (15.5)	7.40 (8.5)	(0.63, 0.32)	626
Ex. 39	3.6	3.49 (9.0)	12558 (15.0)	4.15 (9.0)	(0.63, 0.32)	626
Ex. 40	4.3	3.58 (8.0)	17694 (12.5)	4.57 (8.0)	(0.64, 0.34)	624
Ex. 41	3.1	4.35 (7.5)	22082 (13.5)	6.18 (7.5)	(0.65, 0.34)	618
Ex. 42	3.0	2.55 (7.0)	14431 (13.5)	3.46 (7.0)	(0.65, 0.34)	620
Ex. 43	3.5	2.62 (7.5)	12679 (14.0)	3.51 (7.5)	(0.66, 0.34)	620
Ex. 44	4.2	2.90 (9.0)	14268 (15.0)	3.95 (9.0)	(0.65, 0.34)	620
Ex. 45	3.5	4.48 (8.0)	20587 (16.0)	6.12 (8.0)	(0.65, 0.34)	618
Ex. 46	3.3	2.71 (6.5)	14389 (13.5)	3.63 (6.5)	(0.65, 0.34)	622
Ex. 47	4.0	4.96 (9.0)	20311 (16.0)	6.93 (9.0)	(0.65, 0.34)	620

The data shown in Table 1 indicate that the phosphorescent Ir complexes of the present invention can be used as a light emitting materials in the OLEDs. The OLED devices can emit phosphorescent lights from orange to red, while
5 having high brightness, high current efficiencies, and excellent CIE coordinates.